

Greetings!

Employment trends continue to be somewhat promising in Greater Cincinnati. But we still have a long way to go.

Below, we compare the month of April 2010 to March 2010 and April 2009 in various categories measuring regional employment. Even though the unemployment rate continues at over 10 percent for the region, the trend line in initial and continuing claims for unemployment compared to a year ago is encouraging.

These figures also correspond to mass layoff events in Ohio for the first quarter of 2010. The state reported 90 mass layoffs in the first quarter, resulting in 16,231 separations, compared to 122 mass layoffs in Q1 of 2009 and 41,636 separations.

	APRIL 2010	MAR 2010	APRIL 2009
New registrants	1,103	1,065	2,144
Training enrollments	52	80	51
Employments	181	212	59
*Initial claims/Unem	3,047	3,646	4,353
*Continuing claims	38,693	41,993	49,149
**Unemployment rate	10.2	10.6%	8.9

*Hamilton County
**Region

CONSTRUCTION CORNER: STUDENTS DIG IN DURING 5TH QUARTER

LATEST NEWS & NOTES

STUDENTS DIG IN FOR 5TH QUARTER

CONSTRUCTION FIRMS START TO HIRE

CONSORTIUM HIRES CONSULTANT

SHORT TAKES

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

SWORWIB

All meetings held at SuperJobs Center, 1916 Central Parkway, unless otherwise noted.

Aug. 12: Quarterly Board Meeting, 8-10 a.m.

Aug. 12: Required Partners, 10 a.m.-noon.

Sept 3: Emerging Workforce Development Council, 8:30-10 a.m.

SUPERJOBS

All meetings held at SuperJobs Center unless otherwise noted.

Orientation for new job seekers, 9-11 a.m. **Mondays.**

Orientation also held 1-2 p.m. **Tuesdays**, Jordan Crossing location, Community Action Agency, 1740 Langdon Farm Road

TABE testing, 2:30 p.m. **Tuesdays**

Job Club, 9- 11 a.m. **Wednesdays**

Resume Writing, 9-10 a.m. **Wednesdays**

Computer Basics, 10:30 a.m.-noon **Wednesdays**

Interviewing, 9-10 a.m., **Thursdays**

Networking workshop, 9-10 a.m. **Fridays**

WORKFORCE RESOURCES



Students at Pleasant Hill Academy learn carpentry skills under the instruction of Kevin Murray from CBC Specialities during Building Your Future's 5th Quarter program.

"It feels good to work on carpentry! It's different than everything I do!" That was Markeya Turner's reaction to learning how to pound nails and build a compost bin with her seventh grade class. Markeya's experience was part of [Building Your Future](#), the middle school outreach effort of the [SWORWIB](#) and the [Spirit of Construction](#). Building Your Future, coordinated by the SWORWIB's Anne Mitchell, set out this summer to provide enrichment activities for students during Cincinnati Public Schools' [5th Quarter](#), the summer school program during the month of June.

Dan Freese of [Associated Builders and Contractors](#) threw the support of the entire organization behind the program, as did the local chapter of [NAWIC](#), the National Association of Women in Construction.

Students at Hays Porter in the West End, Hoffman Parham in Evanston, and Ethel Taylor at Millvale, saw demonstrations from Bobcat Enterprises, Kelchner, United Group Services, and Elite Craft Support, which brought equipment, welding, and pipefitting to share with the middle school audience. At Pleasant Hill Academy in North College Hill, students built two cedar compost bins under the instruction of Kevin Murray from CBC Specialities.

Local 12 News, WKRC-TV covered the activities at Ethel Taylor on June 7. The [clip](#), which is still available at [wkrc.com](#), featured students completing the pipefitting challenge, and operating a backhoe under the supervision of Kelchner foreman Luther Hall. When a Taylor student expressed genuine interest in learning more, Hall offered to mentor him on an ongoing basis. "If someone takes time to work with that boy now, they can make a difference in his future," Hall explained. On June 18, the Enquirer ran several photos and a short story on the activities.

When the students at Pleasant Hill completed the first side of their compost bin project, there was a universal shout of "We did that!" Over the next three hours - longer than a regular school morning - the boys and girls stayed on task and worked together in the summer heat. They measured, marked, cut, and nailed their boards. They screwed hinges into the front with a cordless drill. They learned to respect tools, and to operate them safely. And the pride they showed in their work was only topped by the fun they had doing it!

[SuperJobs.com](#): Help for job seekers and employers at the SuperJobs Center

Hamilton County [Job and Family Services](#)

Ohio's [Workforce Information Center](#)

[Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber](#)

United Way [211](#): Information on health and human services

Latest on [Ohio's labor market](#)

Latest on [U.S. labor market](#)

SWORWIB'S MISSION

We will create, develop, and maintain a comprehensive workforce development system that engages the entire community towards ever-increasing levels of self-sufficiency.

The SWORWIB drives policy, direction and funding oversight for the public workforce investment system in the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

The SWORWIB promotes employment through jobseeker and employer services, training and education, workforce readiness preparation and economic development.

For more information on the SWORWIB, click [here](#).

Boys and girls are getting the message this summer: If you complete high school successfully and are ready to work, the construction industry will help you succeed in a good career.

ALL ABOUT EMPLOYERS: CONSTRUCTION FIRMS START TO ADD WORKERS

Although the construction industry has a large number of its professionals benched in this economy, some opportunities are starting to bubble up for laid-off trades people and new hires.

Just ask Bill McIlwain, owner of The Mireagan Group, an infrastructure and construction services firm based in Lincoln Heights, who was looking to add construction workers to his payroll. "We are the subcontractor for several public school projects in Ohio that involved installing new furniture, and we needed to add hire some laborers and supervisors," he said. Mireagan is a member of the [African-American Chamber of Commerce](#), so McIlwain approached them for help.



Applicants at SuperJobs during a Messer job fair in late April.

Pat Bready, Economic Inclusion consultant for [The Banks](#) and [Queen City Square](#), worked with the Chamber to help McIlwain find workers. She coordinated with the [Urban League](#) and the [Community Action Agency](#), both of which operate construction pre-apprenticeship programs, and ensured that hiring was coordinated through the [SuperJobs Center](#). Chuck Walters and Jan Thomas of the Business Services [team](#) at the SuperJobs Center funneled applicants to Mireagan.

Two supervisors and eight laborers were hired by mid-May, said Bready and McIlwain. They were interviewed and selected from a pool of about 20 candidates whom Walters and Thomas had pre-screened. "I was happy that we were able to get the quality of people we were looking for," said McIlwain. "Jan and Chuck gave us all the support we needed to make these hires."

Earlier in the spring, [Messer](#), one of Cincinnati's most prominent construction firms, hired several laborers and carpenters after holding a job fair at the SuperJobs Center on April 21, said Brooks Parker, Vice President of Craftforce Development at Messer. A couple of hundred applicants showed up that day hoping for interviews.

"We had a slight upturn in projects coming out for bid," said Parker. "We were looking to add some people in anticipation of launching those projects." He said that Messer had already recalled laid-off workers so the new hires would actually be additions to Messer's workforce.

Like Parker, McIlwain says that more construction projects in the region and state are beginning to emerge. "Quite a few big projects are coming open," he says. "We will probably hire as many as 30 more people this fall for additional construction jobs."

This may mark the turn in the road that all organizations involved in construction workforce readiness have been awaiting. In July 2008, as The Banks project got underway, the SWORWIB launched a number of initiatives to ensure the inclusion of a qualified and diverse workforce in construction projects in Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

But the recession-fueled downturn in the construction industry meant that laid-off seasoned professionals would be rehired before any new hires came on board, says Sherry Kelley Marshall, President and CEO of the SWORWIB. The focus instead turned on readying a pipeline of candidates who could move into pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs as the recession thawed and would join the construction workforce ready to contribute, she adds.

"Finally, we're starting to see some progress," says Marshall. "We expect we'll see more construction rehiring and new hiring throughout the rest of 2010."

EMPLOYERS FIRST CONSORTIUM PURSUES RESEARCH TO IMPROVE EMPLOYER SERVICES

Employers First Regional Workforce Consortium has hired [Thomas P. Miller and Associates](#), an Indianapolis-based firm specializing in economic and workforce talent development, to develop a

strategy to better serve the workforce needs of Tri-State employers.

Thomas P. Miller provides strategic guidance to community, education, business and government leaders to promote economic growth, and is noted for its regional work that spans state lines, says Barbara Stewart, Director of the [Northern Kentucky Workforce Investment Area](#).

In February, Employers First, which comprises executives of the Workforce Investment Boards of Northern Kentucky, Southwest Ohio and Southeast Indiana, and the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, received a [\\$250,000 Regional Innovation Grant](#) from the U.S. Department of Labor to develop a workforce skills gap analysis. Toward that end, Employers First put out an RFP, and selected Miller. Roy Vanderford, Senior Vice President of Workforce Strategies, is project coordinator.

"Thomas Miller has a list of 12 deliverables from us," says Stewart. "These range from completing a regional asset map analysis, to analyzing employer demand in terms of workforce, to facilitating a regional summit. Ultimately, we expect Thomas Miller to provide us with a number of action strategies to help ensure that our workforce has the training and skills needed to guarantee that the Tri-State remain a robust global competitor."

Adds Sherry Kelley Marshall, President and CEO of the Southwest Ohio Region Workforce Investment Board, "We look forward to tapping into the expertise of Thomas Miller as we hone our regional strategy of satisfying the needs of our employers."

SHORT TAKES: NEW ENTRANCE AT SUPER JOBS; ENERGY INITIATIVE UNVEILED

NEW ENTRANCE AT SUPERJOBS:

After several months of construction, the SuperJobs Center has a new ADA-compliant entrance. Among the repairs: the entire front vestibule was replaced, making the entrance fully accessible to people with disabilities; drainage problems associated with the entrance were corrected; and expansion joints stabilized the corners of the building to support the new entrance. Wes Miller, building manager at SuperJobs, oversaw the repairs.



ENERGY JOBS INITIATIVE: Ohio will begin a new \$6 million jobs program, dubbed Energizing Careers, to train Ohio's workforce for green energy careers, Gov. Ted Strickland announced June 17.

The state is now accepting requests for proposals from companies that hope to offer training. The program will be funded through a grant with the U.S. Department of Labor and will be administered by the Ohio Department of Development.

The Energizing Careers Program will reimburse the cost of training up to \$6,000 for full-time employees, with preferential project funding to companies located in the 44 Ohio counties impacted by the restructuring of the automotive industry, according to a news release. For more information, click [here](#).

MARSHALL PROFILED IN BUSINESS COURIER: Reporter Lucy May of the Cincinnati Business Courier did a [Q&A](#) with Sherry Kelley Marshall that was published June 25. Her advice to new bosses? "Be the employee you want others to be. Balance caring about results and caring about people."

CORRECTION: Lakeeya Williams is one of the two new youth members of the Emerging Workforce Development Council. Her last name was incorrect in the May NewsWIB, and we regret the error.